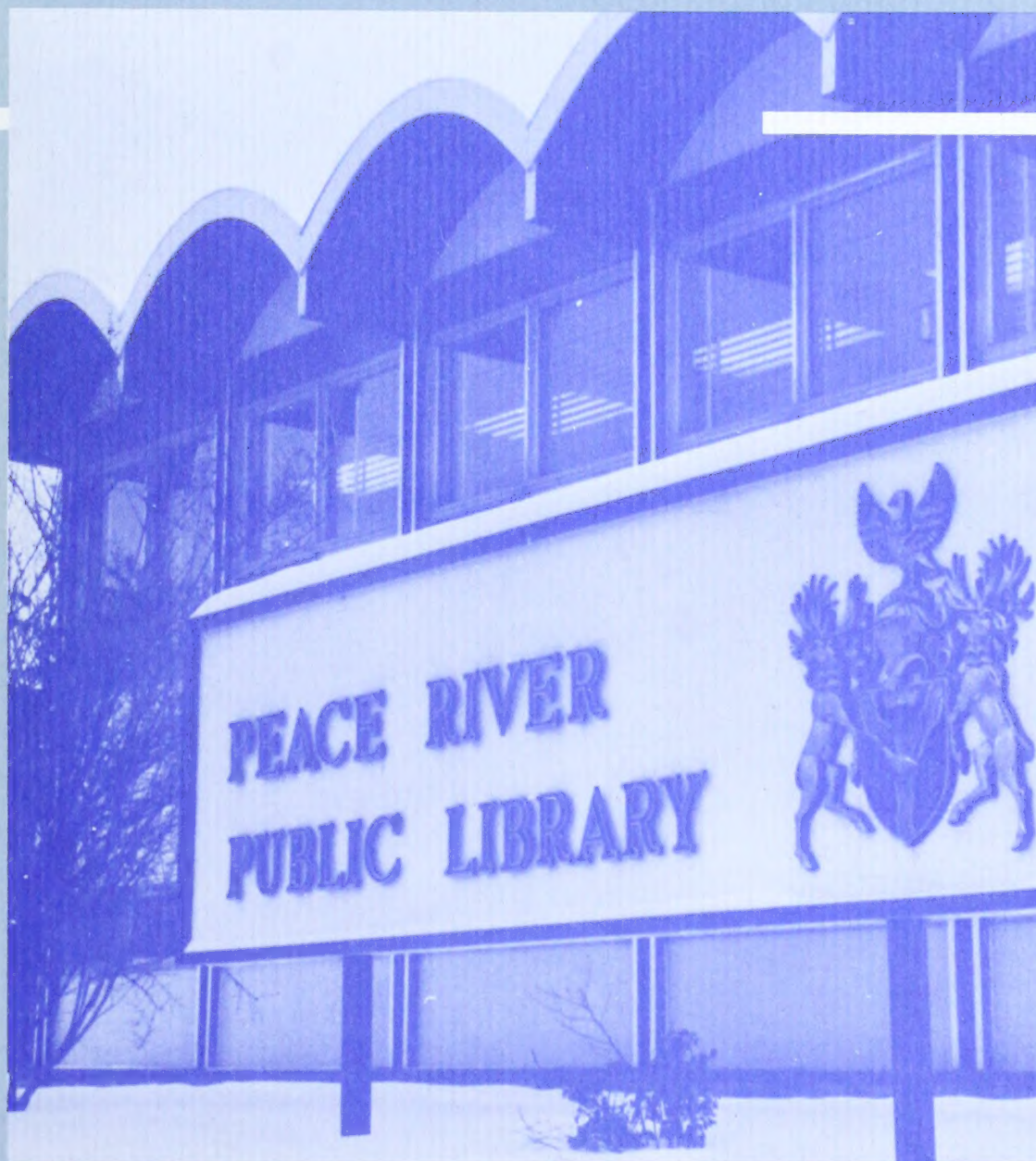


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Top: Bill Schieman, Merron Chorny, Jean Lewis, Christopher Gordon-Craig

Bottom: Elaine Blakey, Honourable Mary LeMessurier, Ron Hodges, Daphne Betlamini

## ALBERTA LIBRARY BOARD

The Honourable Mary J. LeMessurier  
131 Legislature Building  
EDMONTON, Alberta  
T5K 2B6

Madam Minister:

In accordance with The Libraries Act, I have the honour to present to you the Fifth Annual Report of the Alberta Library Board for the year ending March 31, 1983.

Fifth Annual Report of the Alberta Library Board for the year ending March 31, 1983.

## BOARD MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the board changed, with Mrs. Daphne Betlamini, from Winfield, an experienced member of the Yellowhead Regional Library Board, replacing Mrs. Lucille Dougherty. The terms of Mr. William Schieman, Dr. Merron Chorny and Dr. C. Gordon-Craig were renewed. Mr. Ron Hodges was elected Chairman succeeding Mrs. Dougherty, and Mrs. Elaine Blakey continued as Vice Chairman.

Respectfully submitted,

*Ron Hodges*

Ron Hodges  
Chairperson

16214 - 114 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta,  
Canada T5M 2Z5



## CO-OPERATIVE LIBRARY SYSTEMS

The Board has followed the progress of co-operative library systems with keen interest throughout the year by being in attendance at meetings and receiving the system and project newsletters. There are three operating library systems in Alberta: Marigold, Parkland and Yellowhead. Early in the year, Board members joined a large festive gathering of the library community in helping Marigold open its renovated headquarters building in Strathmore.

After extensive consultation with the library community on the "Working Paper on the Development of Co-operative Library Systems," the Board prepared a brief to the Minister of Culture proposing general guidelines and recommending increased financial support. In October of 1982 the Minister announced the following guidelines dealing with the development of systems:

- Library systems should be of the federated type where participants in a system would define, through an agreement or contract, the respective responsibilities of the individual member library boards and the board of the library system (a federated type of system allows greater autonomy for local boards).
- Library system boards should generally be composed of one representative from each participating jurisdiction.
- The creation of new library systems should follow a grass-roots development model.
- The establishment and expansion of library systems should be based on potential viability and the willingness of the original participants to expand the area served to include the total population.

The Minister also invited the library community to respond to the Board's proposal for eight regional system areas and this information is currently being reviewed and collated. Finally the Minister indicated that she would be working towards the development of a program of financial support which would include capital assistance and assistance based on geographic area when the economic climate improves.

In order to assist library systems establishment, Alberta Culture Library Services Branch issued the publication *Library Systems in Alberta: Guidelines for Development*. The purpose of the "Guidelines" is to explain in detail how a system may be developed and established and the various roles that library boards, librarians, steering committees, municipal authorities and the provincial government play in the process.

Elsewhere in the province, four development projects continued to study and work towards the possibility of systems establishment.

The Northern Lights Project, in the M.D. of Bonnyville, has been designed to demonstrate the benefits of co-operation in the northeast area. During the past year the project matured to provide consultative services, workshops and training sessions and a newsletter to member libraries. Many events were open to all libraries in the area.

In the Peace, the steering committee was disappointed that, due to difficult economic times, a development grant was not forthcoming. However, travel and consultative support were increased considerably to the group.





Elaine Blakey talks to Paul Galibois at Marigold opening.

The Southeast steering committee, assisted by a grant from the Library Association of Alberta/ Alberta Library Trustees Association trust fund continued to meet to investigate the feasibility of a library system there. A new executive was elected to plan for the larger group and a new name Shortgrass was chosen.

Unfortunately, the Oldman Library Project was not able to reach its goal of a commitment of 65 per cent of the population by their target date of March 31, 1983. Although the project grant ended at that time, the steering committee/interim board has voted to continue its work with travel and consultative support from the Library Services Branch.

The Board commissioned a discussion paper entitled *The Cost Implications of the Expansion of the Parkland and Yellowhead Regional Libraries* and this was circulated to the major boards in the affected areas. A meeting will be convened by the Alberta Library Board in June, 1983, with representatives of the Yellowhead, Parkland and Red Deer Boards for the purpose of discussing the issues in the paper and hopefully resolving them.

Throughout the province, development continued to take place at the local level. Four new municipal boards were established; three changed status from community to municipal and the Board designated two new community libraries. Twenty-eight libraries completed new or renovated facilities and Board members attended 11 official openings.



Peace River, Stony Plain and Redcliff all opened new facilities.



Jean Lewis attends Network Assembly Meeting.



## **LIBRARY FUNDING**

Provincial grants to institutions and individuals totalled more than \$9,300,000 in 1982/83. The Board continues to review and evaluate the level of financial support available to libraries and library systems, especially in these times of economic hardship.

## **RESOURCE SHARING**

Members of the Board attended three meetings of the Alberta Library Network Assembly. The purpose of these meetings was to establish some principles and considerations for implementing an Alberta Library Network. The meetings, which were attended by participants from academic, school, public, government, and special libraries, have produced a working document called "Together" which contains eight principles for library networking in Alberta and has been adopted by the Assembly. At the meeting on March 29, 1983 in Calgary, the Alberta Library Network Assembly was renewed for a period of three years, until June 30, 1986. The Alberta Library Board is active in the Assembly and a representative will be on the newly formed Network Advisory Group. The function of the Network Advisory Group is to seek and encourage the creation of mechanisms for interlibrary co-operation, co-ordination and sharing within Alberta or of benefit to Alberta libraries.

Resource sharing among Alberta's libraries continued to grow. Inter-library loan requests in 1982 totalled 17,860, a 36 per cent increase over the previous year. Alberta libraries filled 74 per cent of the requests made.

## **SERVICES TO THE HANDICAPPED**

The Levy-Coughlin Partnership completed the study: *"Library Services to the Handicapped in the Province of Alberta: A Comparison of Present Service and Future Needs."* The report indicates that handicapped Albertans need to be made aware of the services available to them.

The evaluation of Alberta Library Service to the Handicapped and the Canadian National Institute for the Blind library services done by Nichols Applied Management on the request of the Board was also completed. It confirms the need for increased publicity for the service.

Service demands continued to increase. In 1982, talking books were supplied to 124 libraries, a 13 per cent increase over 1981. Two thousand, four hundred and four Albertans used talking books, an increase of 20 per cent. Total circulation increased six per cent to 33,372.

## **MULTILINGUAL BIBLIOSERVICE**

The use of books in languages other than English increased spectacularly. Seventeen thousand, eight hundred and thirty four volumes in 29 languages were circulated, an increase of 75 per cent. 1,928 volumes were obtained on loan from the National Library and 3,881 volumes were purchased or donated. The collection at the end of 1982 consisted of 34,146 volumes, a 20 per cent increase. Of these 22,346 were available for circulation and 5,058 records were added to the automated data base, bringing the total records to 11,995.



## **SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS**

The scholarship Committee interviewed candidates and awarded a \$4,000 scholarship to Ms. Suzan Hebditch of Winterburn to assist her in her studies towards a Masters of Library Science Degree at the University of Alberta. No research fellowship was awarded.

## **LEGISLATION**

The Board's ad hoc committee on legislation which consisted of Chairman Ron Hodges, LAA representative Heather Belle-Dowling; ALTA representative Howard Platt and Joe Forsyth from Library Services Branch, presented their report to the Board at its April, 1982 meeting. The report was accepted and forwarded to the Minister for her consideration and legal counsel guidance. It is expected that a new Libraries Act will be tabled in the 1983 Fall sitting of the legislature.

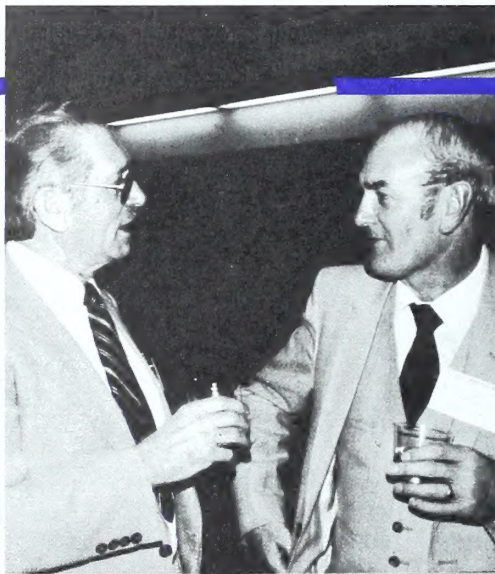
## **LIAISON WITH OTHER GROUPS**

The Board held its regular monthly meetings and, in addition, the chairs and vice-chairs of the Library Association of Alberta, the Alberta Library Trustees Association and the Alberta Library Board met informally on a regular basis for the purpose of discussing areas of mutual interest and concern. This has been very useful in keeping lines of communication open among vested interest groups in regard to library development. The Board also met with all the units of the Library Services Branch in order to become familiar with their work. Many board members attended the Library Association of Alberta province-wide meeting on library governance. Finally, the Board had representation at several steering committee meetings and at an Alberta Library Trustees Association area workshop in Seba Beach.



Left to right: Ron Hodges, Joe Forsyth, Heather-Belle Dowling, Howard Platt





Bill Schieman with Canadian Library Association President Pearce J. Penney at Public Library Association Conference in Baltimore.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS

In May, 1982, the Board contributed financially to the televising of the Alberta Library Trustees Association's 30-second clip "*Behind Closed Doors*." This promotion for libraries is currently being broadcast across the province in community service time slots.

In May, the Board voted support for a three-year professionally developed campaign funded by the Alberta Library Trustees Association, Library Association of Alberta, Alberta Library Board and Alberta Culture Library Services. Elaine Blakey headed a committee of representatives of these organizations and plans to develop these proposals are now underway.

## LIBRARIES 2000 SEMINAR

Sponsored by the Alberta Library Board, LIBRARIES 2000 will be an invitational seminar planned to explore the future development of libraries in Alberta in relation to their past growth, their present state and their social purpose. The intention of the seminar, scheduled for October of 1983, is to begin a process of discussion which will be continued by various groups within the province. The organizing committee was headed by Dr. Merron Chorny and included John Dutton, Lorne MacRae, Joe Forsyth, and Howard Platt.

## SCHOOL LIBRARIES

In 1982, the Minister of Education, Honourable David King, struck a departmental committee to prepare a report on school libraries in Alberta. The resulting document was "*A Position Paper on School Libraries in Alberta*." The Board is looking forward to reviewing this paper and providing further input because it feels that this is an important step in promoting co-operation between school and public libraries.

## CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Representatives of the Board attended the following conferences:

The Canadian Library Association Conference (Saskatoon)

The American Library Association Conference (Philadelphia)

The Pacific Northwest Library Association Conference (Vancouver)

The International Association of School Libraries Conference (Red Deer)

The Public Library Association Conference (Baltimore)

The Library Association of Alberta/Alberta Library Trustees Association Conference (Jasper)

The Public Library and new Librarians Workshop (Edmonton)

The Alberta Library Trustees Workshop (Seba Beach)

Library Development in Alberta (Edmonton)

Other gatherings included the attendance at or sending greetings to the following libraries on the occasion of their official opening:

Bruderheim	Stony Plain
Fort McMurray	Redcliff
Carstairs	Peace River
Strathmore	Wetaskiwin
Marigold Headquarters	High River
Edmonton Public Library (Millwoods)	





Bill Schieman with M.L.A.  
Mickey Clark at Strathmore  
Opening

## IN CONCLUSION

The Alberta Library Board, established five years ago, is an Advisory Board to the Minister of Culture whose support and encouragement is greatly appreciated. The Board gratefully acknowledges the assistance and confidence it has received from the Minister, the Assistant Deputy Minister, Mr. Glen Buick, together with the efficient co-operation of Mr. Joe Forsyth, Director of Library Services and his staff, which have provided invaluable help through their resources. I wish to commend my fellow board members for their enthusiasm, dedication and hard work for the course of library development in Alberta.



# Suggested System Areas

